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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:
Ronald S. Vladyka Jr.)
Application Serial No.:)
09/708,581)
Filed: November 9, 2000)
Title: Microcrystalline Cellulose)
Cushioning Granules)

Group Art Unit: 1623
Examiner: Everett White

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REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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This is a Request for Reconsideration in response to the Final Rejection dated October 30, 2002.
Reconsideration and issuance of a Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 are currently pending in the present application.

The present invention relates to a method for making porous microcrystalline cellulose granules by granulating microcrystalline cellulose with a combination of water and a water-miscible, volatile, polar organic solvent. After granulation, the granules are first dried to remove substantially all of the polar organic solvent without removing a substantial portion of the water and without spheronizing or extruding the granules. Subsequent to removing substantially all of the polar organic solvent, a substantial portion of the water is removed from the granules to thereby obtain the porous microcrystalline cellulose granules. This granulation process produces a special form of microcrystalline cellulose granules that are characterized by a large mean particle size (i.e. 250-1000